

IRISH NEWS

Katharine Tynan, writing in one of the London papers of Sheehy-Skeffington, says he was 'the bravest of the brave . . . an adherent of any lost cause. Courage and generosity were the qualities of this small quixotic person who was loved by Dublin crowds which chivied him when he appeared on Woman Suffrage platforms. . . . He was the one true Pacifist in Ireland, though Ireland never produced a man more essentially a fighter.'

Mr. John Redmond, M.P., who has been very ill at his home in Wicklow, and has just lost a daughter by death, wrote, in response to an invitation to be present at a luncheon given to the Irish-Canadian Rangers by the Lord Mayor of Dublin recently, that it was a bitter disappointment to him not to be able to take part in the welcome of the Irish Canadians. 'The truth is,' he proceeded, 'Ireland is very proud of these sons of the Irish race, who, in every part of the Empire, have followed the lead which Ireland herself gave from the commencement of the war. Very many of my colleagues, and I myself, on scores of public platforms, declared that Ireland's highest interest was in the speedy and victorious ending of the war, and I have never ceased from that day to this in pointing out where Ireland's interests, honor, and duty lie in this struggle in defence of civilisation and liberty. The response of the Irish race has been one of the most astonishing facts in history, and has far exceeded the most sanguine expectations entertained at the commencement of the war. The Irish race is represented in this war, on the side of liberty and humanity, by at least half a million of men who have voluntarily joined the colors—surely a proud and astonishing record.'

The Montreal Irish battalion, lately touring Ireland, was the first Canadian unit which was honored by being permitted to use the name of Duchess of Connaught. Its proper designation (says the *Manchester Guardian*) is the 199th Irish-Canadian Rangers (Duchess of Connaught's Own), and Sir C. J. Doherty, Minister of Justice in the Dominion, is an hon. colonel. The battalion is an all-Irish one, but embraces both Catholics and Protestant, and has chaplains for each faith. Both the chaplains are well-known figures in Montreal public life. Father Hingston is the son of one of the best-known families in the Dominion, while Dr. Smyth, principal of the Montreal Theological College, is a Belfast graduate who was a prominent minister in Irish Methodism. The battalion includes many men who stand out prominently in business and professional life. Captain W. J. Shaughnessy is a son of Lord Shaughnessy, and is a member of a leading legal firm. His brother Frederick fell in battle last year. The officers are mostly men who have joined up to demonstrate the loyalty of the Canadian Irish, who in Montreal and district form a considerable and highly respected element in the population.

A leading figure in the religious, social, and political life of Co. Tyrone has been removed by the death of Very Rev. J. J. Canon McCartan, P.P., Donaghmore, a veteran priest whose striking personality and strenuous activities made him one of the best known clergymen in Ireland. Born at Tassagh, near Keady, Co. Armagh, in 1842, he was ordained in 1864, his first appointment being a curacy at Kildress. In 1878 he was made pastor of Donaghmore, a village boasting an ancient Celtic cross and preserving a charming rurality despite the contiguity of a large brewery and a still larger soap factory. He enlarged and improved the churches at Donaghmore and Galbally, built new parochial houses and schools in both places, secured the site of an extensive new graveyard in Donaghmore, and installed a fine organ in the church. In May, 1914, he celebrated his golden jubilee, simultaneously with the jubilees of Mgr. Byrne (Dungannon) and Canon Coyne (Keady), the triple event being marked by a special service in St. Patrick's, Dungannon, at which Cardinal Logue preached. He stiffly opposed emigration and earnestly advocated improved agricul-

tural methods, while his political work in the Irish cause since the days of Butt and Parnell has been monumental. He was a great priest and a great patriot. The funeral took place at Donaghmore, Cardinal Logue, Bishops McKenna and Mulhern, attending the Requiem Mass celebrated by Rev. P. Cush, C.C., Coalisland. Mr. John Redmond was represented, and Messrs. Dillon and Devlin, M.P.'s and Major W. A. Redmond sent messages of sympathy.

Dr. O'Dea, Bishop of Galway, writing to Father Blowick, of the Irish Mission to China, says:—'I am glad to be in a position to send you a cheque for £100 for your great undertaking. It comes from a bequest which I have recently received from a friend who will, I am sure, share in the prayers and Masses to be offered for your benefactors. I can recall nothing for many a day that has given me greater pleasure than this project of a Maynooth Mission to China. God alone knows what an immense blessing it will bring, not only to China, but also to the Church in Ireland and to Maynooth.'

'If Ireland was to prove at all true to her great past as a missionary nation, it was high time that she should make a big effort to spread the Gospel among pagans instead of merely following the British flag, as she has mostly been doing in her late history. She will now be afforded an opportunity of making a large sacrifice for the conversion of the pagan, and, though the funds required for the work will be large, I am confident that if you open a college for the training of young Irish priests for China, and keep your needs well before the country, the Irish people will not fail to provide you with either the initial expenses or the cost of its annual upkeep.'

'IRELAND A NATION' FILM: BANNED BY THE CENSOR IN IRELAND.

The demand recently acceded to by the Dublin Corporation for the establishment of a censorship over films to be exhibited in the picture houses of the city was evidently made in ignorance of a censor already in real but bashful existence. It is only two weeks (says the *Cross*) since this personage evinced any interest in his work, or indeed gave any token of his presence. His sudden and unexpected activity was occasioned by the exhibition in the Rotunda, of the 'Ireland a Nation' film. This picture—free from all that objectionable pruriency which latterly had become the stock-in-trade of certain Dublin cinema houses—was of an historical nature. Its subject was some of the leading events of Irish history during the past century. Not very inappropriate one might think, to an Irish audience. The exhibitors of the film obtained, if not the benediction, at least the permission, of the military authorities for its display. For two days the picture was screened without hindrance, but on the third the hitherto retiring censor asserted himself, suppressed the film, and put his veto upon its exhibition in any part of Ireland. Zeal for the public good is doubtless highly commendable. But its display in this instance was somewhat belated, and not a little capricious. For several months imported films of a most pernicious and filthy type disgraced some of the Dublin picture palaces. These scandalous productions merited the severest denunciation of everyone who possessed the least respect for the laws of decency. But while other voices were raised in protest against this shameless flaunting of indecency, the military censor and, in fact, the whole English garrison in Dublin were dumb. This state of apathy vanished when a picture calculated to arouse the interest of the Irish people in the history of their country appeared. The ruthless hand soon made itself felt, and Ireland was plainly shown that her duty towards her history lay in forgetting it. If this be the 'principle of nationality' for which the Allies are contending, small nations surely are not blessed in their disinterested champions.

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